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Security Council

Sixty-third year

Provisional

5970th meeting

Thursday, 4 September 2008, 3 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Kafando	(Burkina Faso)
Members:	Belgium	Mr. Belle
	China	Mr. Dai Demao
	Costa Rica	Mr. Weisleder
	Croatia	Mr. Skračić
	France	Mr. Ripert
	Indonesia	Mr. Natalegawa
	Italy	Mr. Terzi di Sant'Agata
	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Mr. Ettalhi
	Panama	Mr. Suescum
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dolgov
	South Africa	Mr. Sangqu
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir John Sawers
	United States of America	Mr. DeLaurentis
	Viet Nam	Mr. Hoang Chi Trung

Agenda

The situation in Somalia

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08-49576 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Expression of thanks to the retiring President

The President (*spoke in French*): As this is the first meeting of the Security Council in September 2008, I should like to take this opportunity to pay tribute, on behalf of the Council, to His Excellency Mr. Jan Grauls, Permanent Representative of Belgium, for his service as President of the Security Council for the month of August 2008. I am sure I speak for all members of the Council in expressing deep appreciation to Ambassador Grauls for the great diplomatic skill with which he conducted the Council's business last month.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Somalia

The President (*spoke in French*): I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Somalia, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the consideration without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Duale (Somalia) took a seat at the Council table.

The President (*spoke in French*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Following consultations among the members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council.

"The Security Council welcomes the signing of a peace and reconciliation Agreement ("the Djibouti Agreement") between the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and the Alliance for the Re-Liberation of Somalia (ARS) in Djibouti on 19 August 2008, the preliminary work undertaken by the High Level Committee and the Joint Security Committee set up under that Agreement, as well as recent political developments. The Security Council expresses its determination that the Agreement should provide the basis for lasting peace, security and stability for the people of Somalia, including the ultimate withdrawal of foreign forces. The Security Council commends the efforts deployed by the TFG and the ARS to this end and their commitment to peace.

"The Security Council reaffirms its respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and unity of Somalia.

"The Security Council extends its gratitude to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia, Mr. Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah, and to the United Nations Political Office for Somalia for mediating dialogue between the parties and garnering support for the political process. The Security Council further expresses its gratitude to the Government of Djibouti for hosting talks between the parties.

"The Security Council calls on the parties to meet all elements of their Agreement in full. In particular, the Council underlines the crucial importance of the parties taking all necessary measures to ensure, without delay, unhindered humanitarian access and assistance to the Somali people, and of the parties and their allies terminating all acts of armed confrontation. The Security Council states its support for the implementation of the Agreement and its intention to review that implementation continuously.

"The Security Council reiterates its strong support for the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM) and urges again the international community to provide financial resources, personnel, equipment and services for the full deployment of AMISOM.

"The Security Council takes note of the parties' request in the Djibouti Agreement that the United Nations, within a period of 120 days, authorize and deploy an international stabilization force. The Council further notes, in this regard, communiqués by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union of 29 June 2008, 8 August 2008 and 20 August 2008.

"The Security Council, acknowledging recent positive political developments in the wake of the Djibouti Agreement, as confirmed by Mr. Ould-Abdallah, reaffirms its willingness, as set out in its resolution 1814 (2008), to consider, at an appropriate time, a United Nations peacekeeping operation to take over from AMISOM, subject to progress in the political process and improvement in the security situation on the ground.

"The Security Council recalls the Secretary-General's contingency planning for a United Nations integrated peacekeeping mission in Somalia, which recommends that plans be put in place for the deployment of an international stabilization force, in the framework of the approach presented by the Secretary-General in his report of 14 March 2008 (S/2008/178).

"In this regard, the Security Council requests that the Secretary-General elaborate on his contingency plans and provide, in consultation with the parties and other relevant stakeholders, a detailed and consolidated description of a feasible multinational force, its mandate and derived tasks, to include, inter alia, the size and geographical scope of that force, progressively deployed, and further provide a detailed concept of operations for a feasible United Nations peacekeeping operation.

"The Security Council further requests the Secretary-General urgently to identify and approach States that might contribute the financial resources, personnel, equipment and services required, stands ready to support the Secretary-General in this regard, and calls upon States to respond favourably.

"The Security Council requests the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the Djibouti Agreement by the parties, including an update on the conditions on the ground, as well as on his planning, including discussions with potential contributing States, within 60 days."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2008/33.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 3.20 p.m.